

Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes
Location: Tyee Center, Tumwater, WA
January 12, 2006

Present

Katie Hansen, Chair
Carl Weimer, Vice Chair
Duane Henderson
George Hills
Richard Kuprewicz
Pete Kmet
Grant Jensen
Shirley Olson
Bill Rickard
Jean Buckner
Leo Bowman

Absent

Nate Moxley

Public present at the meeting

Alan Rathbun, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC)
Tim Sweeney, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC)
Marina Woodard, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC)
Hide Aso, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC)
Rebecca Post, Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)
Victoria Lincoln, Association of Washington Cities (AWC)
Dan Kirschner, Northwest Gas Association (NWGA)
Keith Meissner, Cascade Natural Gas Corp.
Earl Tower, BP Olympic Pipeline Company
Ken Meyer, Citizen

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Adoption of December 5, 2005 Meeting Minutes
2. WUTC Pipeline Safety Section Update
3. Pipeline GIS/Map Security Legislation - Review and Consider Committee Position on Proposal
4. Public Awareness-Next Steps-Review of WUTC, Pipeline Safety Trust and OPS Websites
5. Distribution Integrity Management and Excess Flow Valves
6. Communication During Emergencies-Future Agenda Topics
7. Other Business and Next Meeting Agenda Topics

1. **Welcome and Adoption of December 5, 2005 Meeting Minutes**

The Chair welcomed all members and the meeting was brought to order. The first item was to discuss the minutes from the December 5, 2005 meeting. The committee members moved to adopt the minutes as written.

2. **WUTC Pipeline Safety Update**

Alan Rathbun, WUTC Pipeline Safety Director, gave an update from the pipeline safety section.

Natural Gas explosion in Spokane Injures Two

The pipeline safety program continues to investigate a natural gas explosion which injured two people in Spokane on Dec. 30, 2005.

The explosion occurred early in the morning as the owners of a heating and air conditioning company (Cougar Mechanical) were getting settled into their offices for the day. Kathy and Monte Yockey received burns that required medical attention.

Two UTC pipeline safety engineers investigated the site the following day. The natural gas utility company, Avista, found the source of the leak on a pipeline underneath a nearby street intersection. The 2-inch polyethylene underground pipeline had a crack at a coupling. The pipeline break was over 200 feet from the building in which the explosion occurred. It is believed that the gas migrated to the building. No one in the building smelled the natural gas odorant.

The explosion, in addition to injuring two building occupants, burned papers, damaged a wall and set fire to an office couch. Spokane Fire Department responded. The damaged polyethylene pipe was installed in 1980. The pipeline and installation were standard at the time of installation. The pipeline operated at 55 pounds per square inch. The pipeline safety program is pursuing a failure analysis and following up with other information requests from Avista, witnesses and first responders.

Williams NW Capacity Replacement Project

Construction continues on three horizontal directional drills as part of Williams Capacity Replacement Project.

- South Fork Stillaguamish – Drilling complete and the pipe has been pulled under the river.
- North Fork Stillaguamish – They are still working on the pilot hole and the contractor has started welding the pipe.
- North Fork Nooksack – The 24-inch ream has been completed and they are working on the 30-inch pass. Pipe has been strung.

There have been some small frac-outs which have been environmentally controlled in accordance with their approved contingency plans.

Enbridge Purchase of Olympic Pipe Line

Olympic Pipe Line announced and distributed a notice of Enbridge's purchase of a 65% share of Olympic. ARCO, a subsidiary of BP purchased Shell Pipeline Company's interest. Now ARCO is pursuing a share purchase agreement with Enbridge. BP Pipelines will continue to operate the pipeline for at least 10 years under a separate operating agreement. The Commission will be taking this two-stage transaction under consideration at their January 25, 2006, public meeting. Staff's memo to the Commission in considering this transaction will likely include reference that the Citizens Committee has been informed of this transaction. The Committee may make written comments before the January 25 meeting or may present oral testimony on that day.

Brad Tower of Olympic Pipe Line notified the committee members that BP Pipelines will continue to be the operator and the day-to-day operations will remain unchanged.

WUTC Receives Scores from 2004 OPS Audit

In April 2005, the Western Region of Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) conducted their yearly evaluation of WUTC, Pipeline Safety Natural Gas and Hazardous Liquid programs. This evaluation involves a detailed review of records, processes and participation in two of the inspections. The results of this evaluation serve two purposes. One is to determine whether the WUTC Pipeline Safety maintains the federal certification and secondly the score is used to determine the level of federal funding the program will receive. For the hazardous liquid program WUTC Pipeline Safety received a score of 138 out of a possible 139 points, and a perfect score of 143 out of 143 possible points for natural gas program.

PSE Requests an Amended Order from the Commission concerning their Kittitas Pipeline Project

PSE is extending a 12-inch gas main to serve development in the Cle Elum area. This is phase two of a two stage construction project. The Commission's Natural Gas Pipeline Safety rules have a provision whereby a new pipeline operating at a pressure above 250 psig up to 500 psig cannot be built within 100 feet of a building or high occupancy structure without a waiver of the rule. Further, any pipeline operating above 500 psig cannot be built within 500 feet of a structure or high occupancy facility without said waiver. PSE's proposal is an amendment to a previously authorized waiver by the Commission. Their original pipeline route bisected several private properties raising concerns by local residents. Their amended route is primarily along county road right-of-way. This waiver request will be considered by the Commission at their January 25 Open Public meeting.

3. Pipeline GIS/Map Security Legislation - Review and Consider Committee Position on Proposal

There was a brief summary of HB 2350, which proposes to amend the public records act (RCW 42.17.310) as it relates to location data for hazardous liquid and natural gas

pipelines. This data is collected by the pipeline safety section under the provisions of RCW 81.88.080. Members Katie Hanson and Carl Weimer summarized the testimony before the House State Government Committee that occurred on January 11. Staff presented their concerns with the bill as proposed. A long discussion followed including comments by Dan Kirschner of the Northwest Gas Association and Ken Meyer. Staff also distributed draft alternative language for consideration. By a 4 to 3 vote, the Committee agreed in concept that some pipeline related location data warrants protection from public disclosure. Staff was asked to consider comments on the draft alternative language and redraft a proposal for distribution to members. The Committee Chair will communicate with legislative committee staff following distribution of amended alternative language.

4. **Public Awareness-Next Steps-Review of WUTC, Pipeline Safety Trust and OPS Websites**

Due to insufficient time, this agenda item will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. **Distribution Integrity Management and Excess Flow Valves**

Due to insufficient time, this agenda item will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. **Communication During Emergencies-Future Agenda Topics**

Jean Buckner expressed her concern regarding communications in responding to an emergency. She suggested the Committee consider working on improving these procedures. Duane Henderson explained that most companies already have plans and procedures established in their operations and maintenance manual. Rick Kuprewicz suggested reviewing the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 192 and 195 that has specific information about emergency response plans. The requirements within federal code identify the procedures and plans that pipeline operators must provide in reacting to emergencies. These include maintaining adequate means of communication with appropriate fire, police and other public officials.

7. **Other Business and Next Meeting Agenda Topics**

Other Business

- Alan Rathbun notified the Committee on the opportunity of visiting the One-Call Center to learn more about the center and how it works.
- July 19, 2006 Meeting - proposed to be held at Bellevue City Hall.
- September 14, 2006 Meeting - proposed to be held in City of Spokane Fire Dept. Training Center.

Next Meeting Agenda Topics

- 1) Public Awareness-Next Steps-Review of WUTC, Pipeline Safety Trust and OPS Websites

- 2) Distribution Integrity Management and Excess Flow Valves
- 3) Federal OPS Reauthorization in February or March of 2006.

The next Citizens Committee meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2006 in Olympia. The meeting location will be notified later via e-mail.